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Thank You,

Law Enforcement Center

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Building Temporarily Halted

The people of Prince George's County have prevailed in the first round of the action to deter fragmentation and development of the counted-on open space of the nearby federal property belonging presently to the Department of Agriculture.

The Department of the Treasury, the agency desiring to build their new Consolidated Law Enforcement Training Center on a 500-acre segment of Agriculture property, agreed in court on Friday, May 18 that further construction will not proceed until such time as a new environmental impact statement has been filed as requested by the Prince George's County Planning Board of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

It will probably be at least three months before the statement can be prepared; and after it is filed 90 days must elapse to provide time for public "review and comment" as required by the Environmental Protection Act.

The impact statement will be filed with and reviewed by the Council on Environmental Quality, the President's advisory and policy-making body. Parties to the suit against Treasury may then request a hearing by that council if they dispute the facts or conclusions of the impact statement.

Treasury's agreement came, somewhat surprisingly, early in the proceedings as Judge Howard Corcoran interrupted Counsel for the plaintiff David Freishtat, after only several minutes of his opening argument, to ask why on the basis of the facts presented the parties were in court.

When it was answered that Treasury would not agree for-

mally, in writing not to begin construction although they had verbally done so, Judge Corcoran requested that they agree to wait. Lawyers for Treasury complied with the judge's requests. Such stipulation in court has the binding force of

law and has the same effect that an injunction would have, had the proceeding gone further.

The Commission filed suit against the General Services Administration and the Department of the Treasury last February for their alleged violation of the National Environmental Policy Act which required that an Environmental Impact Statement be issued regarding the Training Center proposed for a portion of the Department of Agriculture research farm.

The Calverton Citizens Association voted to enter the litigation (see THE OUTLOOK, May 1972) and a motion to intervene has been filed by Attorney Michael S. Yaroschuk, 13237 Bellvue Street, who is representing CCA in this action.

In the memorandum...in support of motion to intervene, CCA states that "the Association has steadfastly opposed the Government's proposal which would result in the destruction of the existing open green space in the area and which will have a direct ad-

verse effect upon the existing water and sewer facilities and support facilities, such as fire protection, if the proposed expansion is permitted to continue."

The memorandum further states that "...citizens have not only a right to the preservation of natural surroundings, the environment, as it presently exists, but also have a direct economic interest in the development of this property.

"Further, the burden upon existing sewer and water facilities will be multiplied. At the present time, building has been curtailed (sic) in the Anacostia River Basin and Parkway River basin because of lack of sufficient sewage treatment facilities. Both Prince George's County and Montgomery County have adopted staying policies to stem the tide of "urban sprawl" and to give direction to the uncontrolled development of the present open lands and to establish a hierarchy of commitment of the available tax revenues."

"The proposal of the Treasury Department to expand its present facilities ignores the needs of the community and the impact upon the quality of life to which these citizens are entitled.

"In passing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969...Congress sought to impose restraints on the federal Act to avoid environmental degradation, preserve historic, cultural, and natural resources and promote the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without...undesirable and unintended consequences."

Further reason for intervention in the suit is stated thus: "The interest of the Intervenor is not identical to that of the Plaintiff. While each seeks to restrain the construction of the project, the Intervenor is the only one who can speak for the local residents who will bear the burden of the Government's action.

"Clearly, under the recent cases, the Intervenor represents a sufficient interest in the suit which must be recognized.

"As Governmental bodies, the Plaintiffs may well choose to conclude the matter on grounds unsatisfactory to the Intervenor. The only way that the Intervenor can be assured and assert those matters which it believes bear directly upon its membership

*The
Calverton
Outlook
Bellvue
Silver Spring
June 1972*

Board Votes to Join MNCPPC Law Center Suit

The Board of Directors of the Calverton Citizens Association has voted to join the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Prince Georges County in their suit to oppose construction of the proposed Law Enforcement Training Center on federally-owned land that is currently part of the 2,000 acre Department of Agriculture Research Farm. (See The OUTLOOK, March, 1972.)

The vote by members present was overwhelmingly in favor of the motion that "CCA request that the . . . Park and Planning Commission represent it in suit against the Federal Government because we are citizens of Prince Georges County and as such are concerned about utilization of land within that County."

Board Member Don Margolies summed up the reasons for CCA support of the suit by noting that "we are in a time when . . . if we don't take stock of the land around us and see what should be conserved and that shouldn't be conserved, we are going to be in very serious trouble. Once the land is taken we can never get it back."

He continued, "There are those who contend that Calverton ends at Powder Mill Road and that CCA shouldn't go past Powder Mill Road (in its concern), because what happens beyond doesn't affect Calverton directly."

"The argument is fallacious because what happens there does affect Calverton . . . If they set a precedent by using that land, that precedent could affect Calverton directly one day. For that reason, the Board should take a forward-looking point of view and join the County in its suit."

Prior to the vote, MNCPPC Associate General Counsel David Freishtat, who happens to be a Calverton resident, presented the pertinent facts of the suit to the Board at its April meeting. Freishtat is Co-Counsel in the action.

He stated that the primary objection to the proposed Center is that General Services Administration, which would oversee construction for the Treasury Department, has not complied with the Environmental Protection Act enacted by Congress.

The Act requires that an environmental impact statement be submitted for all proposed Government construction. The suit contends that the statement filed is instead an economic statement which describes job generation and financial benefit for the surrounding area but which takes no cognizance of the physical effect that the center would have on that area.

It is also believed that the Federal Government must comply with an executive Order

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CCA to Join MNCPPC In Law Training Center Suit

(Continued from page 1)

requiring that all new Federal installations comply with local master plans.

As presently planned, it has not. The 500-acre tract east of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and north of Powder Mill Road has always been open space, and the master plans for the surroundings areas, South Laurel, Glendale - Seabrook, Fairland - Beltsville, and Greenbelt - College Park, are all based on the Research Farm's remaining undeveloped.

It is feared that development of that section of Farm property would destroy the counted-on ratio of densely populated area open space.

(A proposed Government use of Farm land for a Food and Drug Administration facility at the north end of the Farm on the west side of the parkway is unopposed by the County because it would complement the town center of South Laurel.)

Attendant problems not mentioned in the Government's "Impact Statement" would be sewage, traffic, and noise generation. WSSC has not granted GSA a sewer hookup, so their intention is either to build their own treatment plant on the site or connect to the one presently used by the Agriculture buildings.

Park and Planning contends that the first alternative is un-

satisfactory because of the limited assimilative capacity of the streams that would be involved. The Center location is at the top of the watershed area for several streams that are tributaries of the Anacostia and the Patuxant Rivers. Because the volume and rate of stream flow is not as great at the heads of the streams as it is farther downstream -- they are even dry during periods of drought -- the effluent would be nearly undiluted as it passed the numerous parks and recreation areas below.

Objection to using the facility presently used by Agriculture is that it was never designed to serve the additional 2,000 persons who would be living on the Training Center site while studying there.

The increased traffic on the area road systems, the increased noise, and the loss of trees render the planned use incompatible with surrounding land use, the County contends.

Freishtat stated that Park and Planning is willing to represent local civic groups that wish to join the suit or that the groups can be represented by someone of their own choice.

(The County sitting as the District Council represents the people and can therefore represent any citizens group wishing to become party to their action by filing a pleading

stating that a given group wishes to intervene (join).

Other area groups that have voted to join are the Oakland Civic Association, the West Laurel Citizens Association and the Isaac Walton League. The Sierra Club is considering intervention also.

During the discussion that followed Freishtat's presentation it was asked whether the Government has indicated whether other plans it may have for use of Farm land. Freishtat answered that even though the County has been told that the Center will be the only such use that the assurance has no binding force and that there is no master plan on record determining the use of the Farm area.

It was also asked whether an issue in the suit which could become more important than any other might be the right of a state or local government to tell the Federal Government what it can or cannot do with its land. The idea was expressed that if won, the case might be a milestone.

LAW CENTER DIRECTOR Presents Plans to Board

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*The Calverton Community
Baltimore Silver Spring
June 1972*

The Director of Department of the Treasury's Consolidated Federal Law Enforcement Training Center whose expansion is planned on former Agricultural Research Farm property addressed members of Calverton Citizens Association Board of Directors at the May board meeting.

William B. Butler opened his presentation with the remark that his purpose was not to persuade anyone to change his point of view (the Board had voted to intervene in the suit against Treasury and GSA at its previous meeting).

He stated that despite the pending litigation, Treasury is still committed to the use of the site and that no alternative had been chosen; therefore, he said, he wished to acquaint representatives of surrounding communities with the plans for the Center and provide background concerning evolution of the concept of the consolidated center.

Butler added that the projected center will be about as "good a neighbor as possible to attain the zoning objectives sought by local groups." (The clear implication was that other uses of the Federal land might result in denser use and less care for preservation of green spaces.)

The total 500-acre site, including the 60-acre portion along the Parkway presently in use by Secret Service, is a roughly triangular area bounded by The Baltimore-Washington Parkway on the west, Powder Mill Road on the east, and the proposed Outer Beltway on the north.

A rifle and pistol training range constructed of sand-filled concrete block in use for some time can be seen through the trees along the Parkway; also in existence there is a facade simulating a row of buildings for teaching trainees entrance and search techniques.

Proposed additional construction is the "central structure," which would be the education and administration buildings and the dormitories to house the 745 students and 50 temporary instructors who would live on the base.

A permanent staff of about 540 people--average pay range \$13,793 plus 5% with January, 1972 increase--would probably live in the surrounding communities. Those in the GS 7-11 range will be "regular government employees" and would probably be renters rather than buyers, according to Butler.

Permanent administrative and instructional staff members, GS 12-14, are seen as becoming the home buyers who would probably be attracted from outside the area.

The service jobs--cafeteria, maintenance, etc.--will "hopefully" be hired from the community rather than attracted from elsewhere, thus, in Butlers estimation, providing jobs for more unskilled or semi-skilled area residents.

Also to be constructed is a driving range to teach high-speed car handling techniques to trainees. It will have a circumference of approximately 5600 feet and will necessitate clearing about 70 acres of what is now wooded land.

The noise from the range is not expected to be a "major factor" since only two or three cars would use the range at one time. 100 feet of treed space would be left as buffer surrounding the range, supplemented by broad-leaved evergreens which are better sound absorbers.

Concerning WSSC denial of sewer hookup, Butler states that the center can build its own plant and treat effluent "to conform to legal standards." (The area now operating will be serviced soon by Department of Agriculture via a line now under construction which will handle 20,000 gallons a day.)

It would be late in 1974 before needs would be more substantial; fully operating, the center would need a capacity of 82,000 gallons a day.

Water, Butler said, can be furnished by two wells. An engineering report advises that sufficient water can be found to provide the requisite 125 gallons per day per person.

Also part of the site plan is an artificially-created 20-acre lake both for aesthetic reasons and for training in aquatic-related activities such as underwater search and rescue.

Butler emphasized that aesthetic considerations are of great importance to the planning staff of the Center. He says that the area is designed to have a psychological impact on the trainees. The basic principal of the Center is the "protection of society," thus it will not have a "Marine boot camp atmosphere."

Butler terms the artists' conceptions as beautiful buildings, which will be no more than 70 feet tall and located on the lowest part of the site, as requested by Park and Planning so that they can be hidden by trees.

The planting of additional trees has been authorized between the Parkway and the facility and will start pending Parkway widening plans.

Butler stated that concept of need for a law enforcement training center came about after the assassination of President John Kennedy. Thus the site presently in use along the B-W Parkway was taken over by Secret Service. (The FBI had built a training facility at Quantico but said that there was not room for the training carried on by other agencies.)

Other federal agencies w "pistol packin'" office (Butler is from Texas) were interested in improved training facilities; and as a result of cost-effectiveness study, Bureau of the Budget, it concluded that a consolidated facility was the most economically feasible.

The present site was chosen, Butler stated, because it was deemed necessary that the Center be near the "seat-of-government" for convenience purposes and the property was already federally owned. The recruit program and the AI (Advanced), In-Service Refresher, and Special programs require a central location to draw on highly skilled personnel for instruction.

(When questioned as to reasons for ruling out Fort Meade and some federally owned land near Gaithersburg and in Southern Maryland, Butler stated that he did not know the specific objection. Linda Fohs asked him to furnish CCA with copies of reports on those sites; to date has not done so.)